

Black Star Publishing
1414 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213

TENACIOUS

WRITINGS FROM WOMEN IN PRISON



Women in prison —
It's not pretty!

ISSUE 3
WINTER 2002

WHAT IS A TENACIOUS WOMAN?

by: Barrilee 'Gispert' Bannister

#11309597

PO Box 9000

Wilsonville, OR 97070

A tenacious woman possesses the will to make no compromise with wrong. She cannot be bought off to remain silent when faced with injustices. She does not hesitate to take chances, and she is not ashamed or afraid to stand up for the truth when it is unpopular. She does not lose her individuality in a crowd of faces, and she never quits because others disagree with her. She knows that her choices in life obligate no one but her, and she learns from her mistakes. She grows by her own efforts to succeed, and she is proud to stand alone knowing that she is a woman.

Are you a tenacious woman?

Tolerating injustice is an invitation to be enslaved.
Faith is holding on to the truth in a world of deception.
Success is never the problem; it's what one succeeds at that can be a problem.
Progress is to be encouraged and respected, even if it is slow.
The more aware you are, the less you can be brainwashed.
Dedication and choice destroys obstacles.

FEARLESS FEMALE

Catherine Booth and her husband William founded the Salvation Army. However, it is her lesser-known stand on women's rights that touches my heart. In 1800, her son Bramwell discovered the celling of English girls for slavery and prostitution. Some were drawn to the promise of life in London while others were sold by their parents. They were chloroformed, raped, used and, soon after, sent to Berlin, Rome and Paris. Some were as young as thirteen. The truly sick loophole in justice is that the perpetrators were protected by law since a girl aged thirteen or younger could not take an oath or testify.

Catherine campaigned to raise the age of consent in England. She spoke at gatherings and rallied to seek support from Queen Victoria. In twenty-one days, the Booths had gathered over 400,000 signatures—2 ½ miles of names-- demanding the change in law. Eventually a law was passed and the age of consent is now 16.

Melanie Schmidt #5992221
Coffee creek correctional Facility
PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, or 97070



We at "Tenacious" strongly believe that everyone has a story to tell, something to share and are in need of someone who will listen and offer some kind of support and/or understanding. This zine is about the freedom and power of speech and overcoming difficult times and remaining true to yourself, speaking up for your own and others' rights.

We encourage women to share with us and others in the hopes of educating those in society and to empower other women to take a stand for their rights and the rights of others. Use the power of your voice in a positive way--to educate.

SEND ART AND WRITINGS TO:

V. Law
PO Box 20388
Tompkins Square Station
New York, NY 10009

Spring deadline: 21 March 2003
Summer deadline: 21 June 2003

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS ZINE OR A BACK
ISSUE:
send \$2 in well-concealed cash or stamps to:

Black Star Publishing
1414 Lincoln Place
Brooklyn, NY 11213

"Tenacious" is free to women in prison

Cover art by Gretchen Schumacher, #6732990
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

**A Letter to My Sisters Beyond:
Words, Love, & Endurance Flows only
from the heart within-**

by Rhonda Leland

Being a mother is my heart's desire and practically all I know. At fifteen I had a son. I never imagined life without him. I planned, I loved, I dreamed... You may have spotted me a time or two. Possibly on my way home from work, two children in tow and one on my hip, stopping off at the grocery store for a few things. I was the one with the shining eyes, although tired. My life I would never trade.

Eleven years I spent singing along to Baby Balluga. A single mom? No husband? Oh, my husband went away. Married my best friend, I quietly took my children away.

I struggled, I cried, faced heartache and pain. I turned to family. Then to friends. Help? No, they were too busy. Yes, I turned to drinking and drugs. A product of my childhood environment, some would say. Ashamed? No, valuable lessons were learned along the way.

I fought to go home. A deal, ten years if I agree. But I believed in justice and would fight to see it free me. I had only one choice. My children knew no other arms to hold them when they hurt, no other voice to soothe their minds, no other parent in which to believe.

Twenty years + life is what the courts gave me: a first time offender and no one was hurt. Until the first year of prison, when I lost my faith, I walked on the verge of sanity, praying day after day if there is a God he would keep my children safe.

The second year destroyed my life. I believed in this Hell that God did not see me. My son was molested. It took hundreds of letters and phone calls for me to realize the pain in him I could not change. Society expects children to believe in justice and the American way. How, when a child watches a mother receive a life sentence for a petty crime? How, when a child is hurt and destroyed against his will? The pedophile receives little time. I can not understand how a man who tortures a child serves such a little amount of time.

Who do I scream at for justice when so many of us are mothers? When do we fight to protect ourselves and our children against a society that would rather lock up mothers with stiffer penalties than a male predator?

It has been seven years and I feel like I walk a tightrope leaning heavily towards the edge of a complete breakdown. At times, I balance. (Although stress has become a constant companion.) I enjoy a book form time to time, or a migraine. I flirt only with ulcers. I have a tear stained pillow for a bed companion, however, I am not complaining. Falling apart is not an option. I have three teenage children who believe in me, so for now I keep it all locked away. This may see cowardly, but it is the most logical way. It takes strength to write the mommy mail. To encourage, to strengthen, and to keep a spark of hope, a memory, and a belief in justice alive in three wonderful kids. Especially when you believe you will never see the day.

It is times like this you simply bow your head and pray for peace, knowing justice you can't have. Praying for solitude: a place far away from the loud banging and horrible

Parole/Pre-release Information
American Correctional Association
Publications Division
8025 Laurel Lakes Ct
Laurel, MD 20707
(800) 825-2665
Sells a parole planning guide "As Free as an Eagle" and self-help books

National Network for Women in Prison
714 West California Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91105
Resources & advocacy work. Produces a free newsletter written by former prisoners.

Children's Center
PO Box 803
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Publishes "Foster Care Handbook" written by women prisoners. Costs \$2.

Create Me Free
PO Box 26044
Tucson, AZ 87526-6044

Non-profit organization that gives incarcerated artists & writers a forum for self-expression. Our main focus is to use art and expression to cause changes within both the individual and the system. We believe that prisoners should be given the tools to become productive members of society and we aid in this by giving inmates support in their growth. We believe that self-expression is vital to self-cultivation & self-cultivation is what allows for growth & change in society. We exist as a place where inmates can find support, advice and resources when necessary. Produces a quarterly publication of art and ideas. Will be putting together a special issue devoted to women in prison. Needs submissions!

Resources for Ladies Inside and Out

California Coalition for Women Prisoners
1540 Market St. #490
San Francisco, CA 94102

Advocacy group. Free newsletter (The Fire Inside) for women prisoners.

National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
125 South 9th Street, Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Free newsletter (Double Time). Lots of info and legal assistance

Nat'l Center for Lesbian Rights
870 Market St #750
San Francisco, CA 94102

*Legal assistance on civil rights issues for lesbians.
Counseling hot-line (415) 392-6257*

Native American Rights Fund (NARF)
1506 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 447-8760

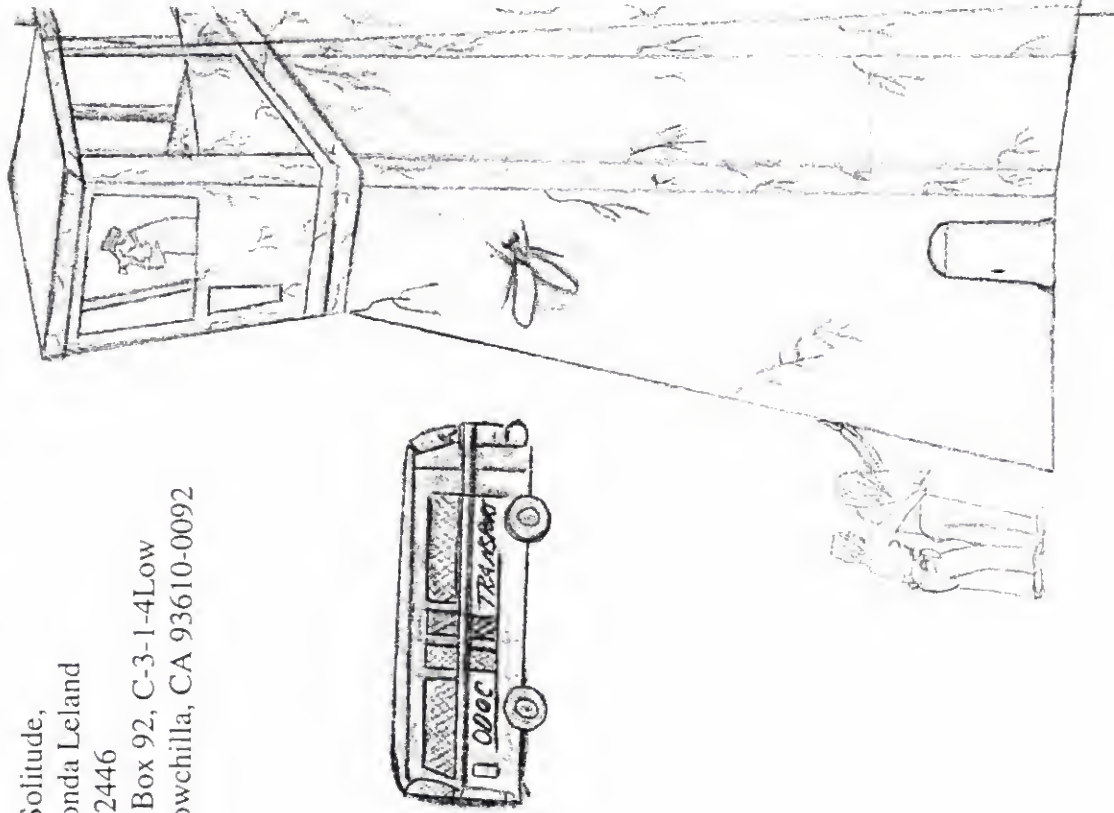
non-profit legal organization devoted to defending and promoting the legal rights of Native American people

Stop Prison Rape, Inc.
6303 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Information on rape and sexual assault laws, inmate-on-inmate violence laws. Request a copy of the Prison Rape Reform Act of 2002

sound of it all. Praying for the ones who want to know, and the ones who don't, that another sister never has to walk this way. What is it like to be in prison? Now, you know!

In Solitude,
Rhonda Leland
W62446
PO Box 92, C-3-1-4Low
Chowchilla, CA 93610-0092



Barrilee Bannister

**Inmate-Officer Relationships:
How Close is Too Close?**
by Barrilee Gispert Bannister

According to Oregon DOC Policy 20.1.3 Code of Conduct: "All employees shall confine their relationships with inmates/offenders to those activities which are within the scope of the employees' duties...Employees shall not become emotionally, romantically or sexually involved with inmate/offenders."

Oregon DOC Policy 20.6.1, Promotion and Maintenance of a Respectful Workplace, states that the following are examples of workplace harassment and fall under 20.1.3:

- 1. Unwelcome touching of a personal nature, which can encompass leaning over, cornering or pinching*
- 2. Sexual innuendos, teasing and other sexual talk such as jokes, personal inquiries, persistent and unwanted courting, sexist put-downs or insults*

A fellow inmate approached me in the shower area and asked me if I heard other inmates gossiping or talking about her being involved with an officer. Some other inmate handed a male officer a kyte (communication form) asking if he needed a can of leg off when she was at the officers' station talking to him.

LOCKS OF LOVE
by: *Melanie Schmid, #5992221, CCCF*

In 2000, I was returned from being housed in a men's institution while awaiting the long overdue, first and only female prison in Oregon. There, I worked as the institution's barber for approximately 250 incarcerated women. Many women were interested in donating their hair to "Locks of Love," a non-profit foundation that provides wigs for children with cancer, made exclusively through the donations of human hair.

I was never as touched as I was when nine women choose to donate their hair the night before leaving for boot camp. I sectioned, braided, wrapped and packaged over six pounds of hair.

If you or anyone you know is interested in donating her/his hair*, please contact Locks of Love at:

Locks of Love
1640 S. Congress Ave
Suite 104
Palm Springs, FL 33461

**Hair must be clean and braided and 10 inches long. Grey hair is fine, though colored, bleached, or very damaged hair is not wearable for wigs. However, colored, bleached, or very damaged hair can be sold for weight and the proceeds will go to Locks of Love.*

Hearing Impaired Woman Incarcerated in Oregon Seeking Assistance

Would you have the time and energy to help me learn how to read and write and spell so I can comprehend word sentences?

Through my testing--I have been told--I am about 8th grade level of math and reading skills.

Since they won't help me find a job because of my medical issues, I feel I need to educate myself so I can read about the world and issues of today. Also, I would like to take a basic art course. I enjoy that!

I have done hard work all my working years--back-breaking work, mills, manufacturing factories. I am on the board of Oregon nursery. I used to be a CNA. That was many years ago. I have a CNA certificate and was issued a completion of competence. All my lines of work ended due to my hearing loss. At one point, vocational rehab qualified for their program but I got sick with my CA. 98.

I would like to read and write and learn how to do math so I can better help myself. I can't hear to do classroom. Anything!

Thank you.

Randy Stewart, #9675536
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
PO Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR 97070

This fellow inmate then asked my advice. I told her that if it's not true, then not to worry about it. However, she should keep her distance from the officer to avoid any problems, reason for gossip or an unwarranted trip to segregation. She would also be saving the officer's job!

She then asked me, "If it's true, what would happen?" I told her that if the higher-up officials discovered it, the officer would probably be placed under investigation and posted in a different area of the facility while she would be placed in segregation and most likely be retaliated against by other officers.

The officer supposedly involved approached me the same day and asked, "Why do women gossip so much?" I asked the officer why he was asking me. He then went on to tell me he was having a bad day because inmates were saying that he is having a relationship with an inmate.

I told the officer that I usually don't come out on his shift because I work graveyard and sleep when he's on duty, so I'm unsure of what goes on or what's being said. Other inmates have told me that he does a good job at keeping the unit under control and in order and, if the gossip is untrue, then he should tell the inmate involved to stay away from him.

A few days later, this officer called me over to his station and asked if I dropped a kyte on him for playing favorites. I told him that I don't drop kytes—if I had something to say about his

misconduct, I would take it straight to the superintendent.

At this time, the officer's lower right eyelid began to twitch. I asked why he was bringing this up to me, or even talking to me, and that I could care less what he is or isn't involved with as long as he leaves me alone. But I'll be watching him from now on because knowledge is power, something I might need to use at a later date. Then, I walked away.

Since that last confrontation, I've paid close attention to the inmate and officer's interactions with one another. The inmate is at the officer's station whenever he's on duty and, on several occasions, has bent over seductively with her ass facing him. The officer is constantly at the inmate's cell door. Is this an inmate-officer relationship, one that's just beginning or just innocent behavior that's questionable? Is this the type of behavior that is expected of a correctional official? Is this what the taxpayers pay him for?

Bartlee Gispert Bannister
#11309597
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, OR 97070

TWO APPEALS FOR HELP

**Please help Native American women with
our need
for tradition and sacred ceremony.**

The pain of the dominant culture's lack of willingness to understand has left us with no place to turn.

We do not have a circle. We do not have sweat or smudge ceremonies, drum/dance/powwow or any other type of Native American activities. We need someone who is willing to apply as a spiritual advisor, who would work on the facility grounds. A person who will lead us in ceremony and would be willing to work with DOC.

Thank you.

For more information, please write:

Melanie Schmid (aka Meia Launic Van Pelt)
#5992221
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
PO Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR 97070

STOP THE HARASSMENT OF MELANIE SCHMID!

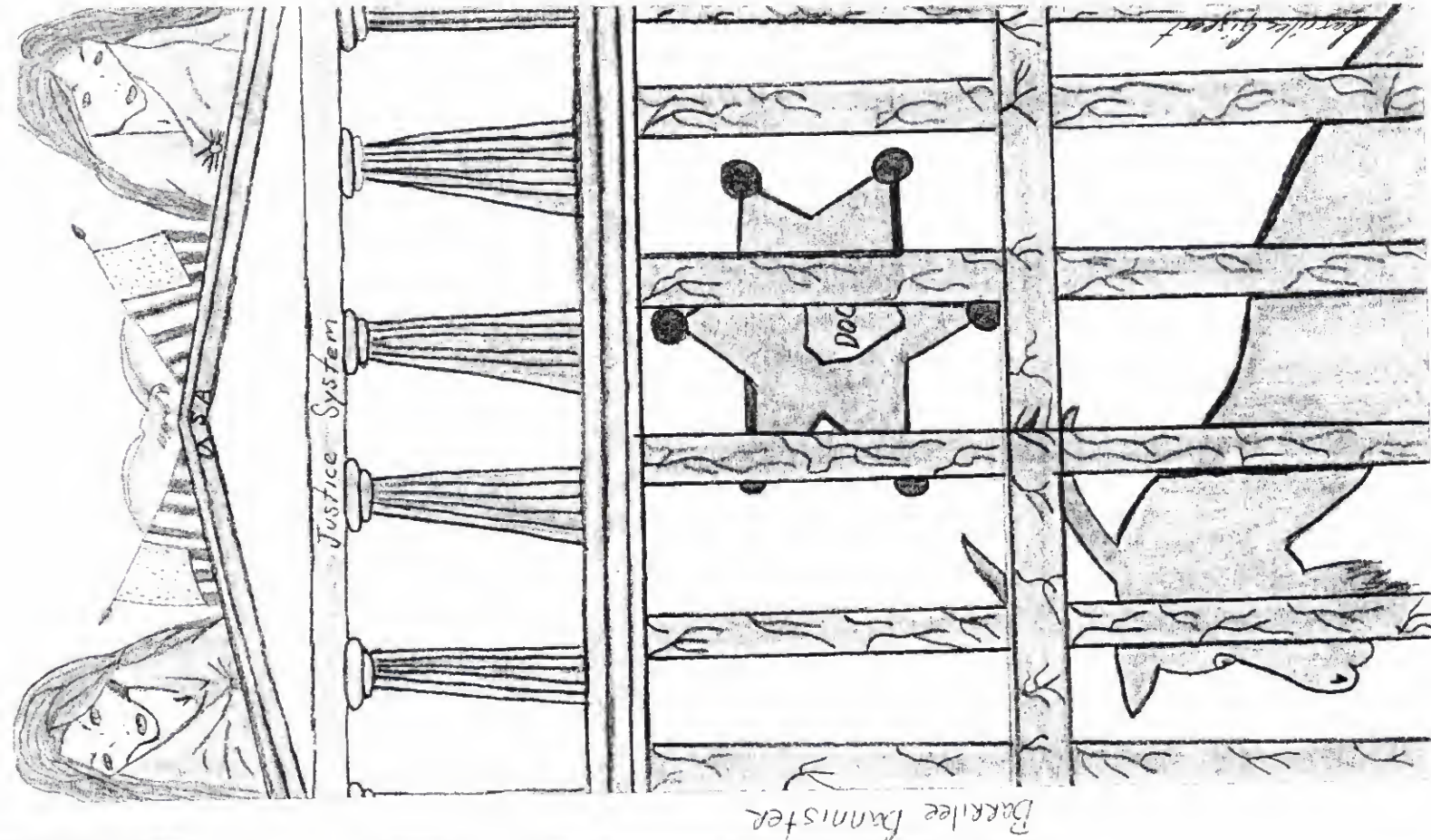
Melanie Schmid, #5992221, an inmate at Oregon's Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, is being harassed and intimidated by prison officers after allegedly reporting an inmate-officer relationship. Although Melanie did not blow the whistle, she has been subjected to unwarranted cell-ins as well as threats of disciplinary reports and segregation by CO Heflin (the officer in question), CO Jackson and others. Although Melanie has reported this intimidation to Captain Dickenson and Superintendent Palmateer, Heflin continues to work on the unit and the harassment continues.

Below is an excerpt from Melanie about the harassment:

"I had just moved back to H Unit. Inmate Robb came up on me all hostile and said, 'Oh, I hear you wrote kyles on me and Heflin for having an affair.' At first I laughed at her, then said, 'If you're not doing anything, why are you tripping?' She continued on and on about how nothing could be proven.

After that, I noticed that CO Heflin was in fact at this woman's cell door nineteen times in less than 1 1/2 hours. He would not complete a full check: he would go directly to cell 205, stand in front of the cell door, talk, laugh and then return to his desk without checking the other 53 cells. Not it is obvious that something strange is happening when every 7 to 9 minutes he is at that door.

Then, CO Heflin, was removed from the unit. I was then told to report to the captain's office where I was informed that I had no disciplinary reports in over 2 years. (I can go to the Parole Board every three years provided I have



no disciplinary action against me. I am scheduled to appear before the Parole Board in October 2003 if I continue to stay out of trouble)

I felt threatened. I was alone in a closed office with a male captain and a male sergeant after business hours. Captain Dickenson then told me that CO Hefflin told him I stated, "I don't care if you're doing her. She doesn't throw my food." I told Dickenson, "Look. I do not talk like that and if I were reporting something like that, I'm not stupid enough to go to the officer and say it. I would report it to the unit manager."

Captain Dickenson said that he was going to order CO Hefflin to write a Major Misconduct report if I actually said that. I told him that I had no idea if they were or were not doing anything. I did not care, but whatever was going on, I wanted to be left out of it.

CO Hefflin returned to work on the unit. His first evening back, a female officer, CO Jackson, came onto H unit and was giving him the High Five and saying, "Oh yeah!" and "Now what?" and looking at the table where I sat. CO Hefflin put his hand around her lower back. CO Jackson then approached me and said, "Okay, Schmid. I understand you have a vendetta against Hefflin and are out to get him." I am stuck. I can't believe that this officer, who has always been one of the strictest, is saying this.

Later, I see Superintendent Palmateer on a call-out. She tells me that if the affair is going on, she'll take care of it. She tells me to stay out of trouble. I leave, believing that she will follow up. A week later, CO Hefflin is still working the unit. Meanwhile, other inmates have made statements and kyted about his behavior. He himself

Quothable Word Search Puzzle
by: Jennifer Boyer-Hamster

Tenacious #5

A Z B T G R A N D C H I L D R E N S T O
C W M S U K B G N T U L O V E U S P F U
I T C O U L D N O T B D E R B I E E R R
R L G T R T S G N I M R G F D N A O D S
C E I H P O C R O B E R T G U C U P B E
L R Z A I N P T A T I A N N H K P L K L
E O R T E O E F E G Z U P C N I T E U V
S Y U O O B A R R I E H T M Q N D A S E
O M T U A H C U S W T H A P O X A N H S
S O C R Y S E G P H E K R U C F O D L T
I H A T I F A M N R A H Z A W A T H A O
R A K I D S N O S B H L E D M Q M R D G
O W I N V E D H K A S R L K I K I O K E
N K B E A R A T D S A G X R C T A S L T
G C M A I N U I V X H Y F W E P E A E H
F H C L D H W T R G U T H I L M O V A E
S I O S W I X T N H P P I N R U A S P R
P E H C N E O I U R S L V M N M O I O K
L F L A C O K H A P P I N E S S L I N A
C R K A N A D N I L D P E O L U C Y O N
A E P E I R E E S H O U L D F A L L R I
D O M Y O R H I N S E C U R T Y F F B U
W E B I N D N I H T I A F Y P P A H R Z
F O R K H T I K A E R B R O N E K A H S
I N T H E C I R C L E S O R E E T Z O T

Quotable Word Search Puzzle By: Barrilee Expert Barrister

1. We End
2. Ourselves Together
3. By Taking Hold
4. Of Each Others Hands
5. So Firmly
6. And Forging
7. A Circle So Strong
8. That It A
9. Tree Should Fall
10. Upon It
11. It Could Not
12. Shake Nor Break It
13. So That But
14. People And
15. Grandchildren
16. Shall Remain
17. In The Circle
18. In Security
19. Peace And
20. Happiness
21. Mahanah Chet
22. Kiawatha
23. Dehanyiwah

told me it was not over, that he had not even been spoken to yet.

On December 7, 2002, I was scheduled to work taking photos. We break at dinner. After dinner, CO Heflin is on duty. I let him know that photos are still going on, but I cannot be in that room without security because of the phone and the computer. So he calls for help. An officer opens the door and I go to work. My boss still does not show up. She's late, but I'm trying to stay caught up. Another woman has a seizure and the area ends up being closed. At about 8:10, I am taken to the Captain's office by Sergeant Yancy and a Rookie Amperson, who stated that I had cancelled photos after telling CO Heflin that security needed to be there to assist with photos. She then told the sergeant that I had been yelling after dinner that I was f**ing sick of this s**t and I f**g cancelled pictures. I knew it was not true. But the cops always back each other. I asked the sergeant to talk to the unit inmates, that there was a big misunderstanding. He refused. An hour later, I was given a cell-in for 9 1/2 hours, 1 1/2 longer than allowed, from 8 pm to 5:30 am on my day off for yelling in the day room and causing a disruption. Around 70 inmates were present. Had this in fact occurred, I'd have gone straight to the hole.

On December 10, a captain who is the Gang Security Threats Group manager calls me in and tells me that he thinks I control inmates. He wants me to sign a statement that if S. Foster gets hurt, Barrilee Bannister and I are going to segregation. I do not know what he is talking about. He then proceeds to tell me that if I did not comply, I would f*** off of focus group, my job, etc. I told him that I have no problem with Foster and don't even live on the same unit.

I am tired of being threatened. I've done nothing but can't get past a captain for help. I've written Security Manager N. Howton, Assistant Superintendent L. Humber and Superintendent Palmateer. No one has responded."

Please contact Joan Palmateer, Superintendent of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and ask her why Melanie Schmid is being harassed and intimidated by staff members. Even if Schmid had reported Hefflin's affair with an inmate, she should not be subjected to administrative retaliation nor should her complaints be ignored.

Joan Palmateer, Superintendent
24499 SW Grahams Ferry Rd
PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, OR 97070
phone: (503) 570-6412
fax: (503) 570-6417

Contact Melanie directly and offer your support:

Melanie Schmid #5992221
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, OR 97070

than victims. Most women prisoners have at some point in our lives been subjected to child abuse, rape, sexual discrimination, or domestic violence. There are so many of those types of Crisis Centers available to women in society and we need some in here. One Crisis Center in one state is all it takes to start and then expand to other Crisis Centers in other states. All we need is some dedicated women who are willing to sacrifice a few hours every week to come into our prisons and do what they can to make a difference for other women who need help in this cold world of barbed wire fences and guard towers. We need to come up with a program and work together at making our world a better place.

Bartilee Gispert Bannister
#11309597
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, OR 97070



The Administration Responds to My Letter

I was pulled over today from 10AM to 1PM by Coffee Creek's Security Manager, Program/Social Services Manager, and STG Captain concerning my response to an article in the Oregonian Newspaper November 14th, "Superintendent Takes on Prison Challenges". My response, "Violence is Up at New Prison", appeared in the newspaper seven days later.

They said that I was entitled to my opinion, but disagreed on some of the issues I raised in my response. I spoke to them, and they listened. They said they were trying their best and they admitted that they have been unaware of some of the issues I raised. Their excuse was that Coffee Creek is a new facility, so most of the officers are new hires. They haven't been trained all the way yet, so they asked that I be patient and bring issues to them, rather than bringing it to the media. But this got their attention, didn't it. They told me what I wrote could be interpreted as them not doing their jobs, and therefore discourage taxpayers from giving us a budget increase in the January elections. They seemed sincere on trying to come to a resolution to stop the increase in violence. This we will see, and by all means, I will be watching and reporting to everyone as this unfolds.

Women need programming throughout US prisons because our needs are often ignored and forgotten. Our prisons are in a budget crisis compared to men's prisons, and we can not depend on prison officials to help us in here. What we need is women volunteers from out in society who are willing to come into our prisons on their own free time and facilitate programming to educate us and help us better ourselves. Women prisoners need to learn how to become survivors rather

I DO DARE TO DREAM

by: *Melanie Schmid. #5992221*
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, OR

I have a picture in my mind, a clear
vivid
Scene of courage rewarded
by freedom.

I am within my realm of self, one
woman.
I build the bridges to my
dreams.

I am chief and commander of my spiritual
weapons.

I map the passages of my
journey
I am confident in my ability
to endure.
I learn from each experience
a new tool.
I am true to myself.

I persevered and conquered my fear to
dream.

COFFEE CREEK

Violence is up at new prison

My assessment of Coffee Creek's first year, as an inmate incarcerated and housed within its medium-security facility, is not positive ("Superintendent takes on prison challenges," Nov. 14).

Coffee Creek beats all other state Department of Correction facilities (which are all-male facilities) for its lack of assistance for inmates transitioning back into the community as productive members of society.

Programs are scarce. Those programs that are available have long waiting lists or else no structure behind them.

Programming is the least of the problems here at Coffee Creek. I'd like to address these other issues:

Officials at Coffee Creek have been made aware of the increase of female inmate violence against each other. At other facilities we've been housed at, a fight between two female inmates would occur every six to eight months. Since the medium facility has been opened — April 2002, approximately 7½ months — there have been more than 20 fights. When officials were asked what they were going to do to prevent or put a stop to the rise of violence, their response was that the inmates would have to deal with it.

The violence is not due to race, diversity, age, crimes and so on, as is common throughout U.S. prisons. It's due to the lack of programs and anything that would help us improve ourselves.

According to Oregon Department of Corrections OAR Policy 20.1.2, an employee's duty is to serve the public, to safeguard lives and property, to protect Department of Corrections' incarcerated persons against

Coffee Creek has the potential to be the first

prison to do great things. The women here suggested sewing for the homeless, Big Sister prevention programs for at-risk youth, and other programs, all of which have been shot down by Joan Palmateer and her staff.

I came to prison as an educated, articulate woman. Being here, I have not been able to utilize these skills. There is no reason for anyone here to use her mind. Women are literally being stored here. Asking about paying for college correspondence courses is like speaking a foreign language. Education is one of the first and foremost necessities in changing anyone's thought processes and behavior. But staff here pay no attention to that.

In the news media, Coffee Creek seems like the "ideal" prison. In reality, it's nothing short of a concentration camp. There are no life-skills programs, no college education programs. The only programs available are GED and Basic Education, parenting and maybe one other. There are three job-oriented programs. However, the space is so limited that 80% of these women will never have the opportunity to participate in them.

In the past 8 months, 4 or 5 women have died. When Joan is addressed about the lack of proper medical attention, her reply is, "There's nothing I can do. Address medical." Is that who the deceased's family should call? Why isn't the superintendent trying to prevent so many deaths? Maybe they're not important. They're just female prisoners.

deception, oppression or intimidation, violence or disorder. We inmates are still waiting to see this become a reality.

It appears that the officials at Coffee Creek were all given rose-colored glasses when the medium facility was opened. Sexual harassment and inmate/officer relationships are commonplace. When reported to higher-ups, inmates involved are retaliated against, segregated, terminated from jobs and programs. The officials involved are posted somewhere else in the facility.

Before holding inmates accountable for their actions and behavior, Coffee Creek and the state Department of Corrections need to hold their employees accountable for their actions and behavior with more than just a tiny slap on their wrists.

BARRILEE BANNISTER

Inmate,

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

6. We grant inmates hearings on disciplinary matters, even though it isn't required for most infractions, because we are used to doing it that way and we aren't ready to turn over additional authority over to officers for now. (Some agencies are starting to withdraw the hearings rights from inmates.)

7. We allow inmates' attorneys to visit inside the jail/prison because it is more convenient for us than taking the inmates to outside visits. All five administrators said they give inmates rights through their own policies, rules and procedures because it is less expensive and is done for management's convenience. Inmates do most of the cleaning, repairs, laundry, and cooking; to keep them working effectively instead of trying to force them to work, we treat them with respect. Generally, they return that respect and can be managed with fewer officers than if we had to force them.

They said it is always an appealing public thought to be stricter with inmates, but it simply would cost more and correctional funds are strictly limited. Even though it is contrary to popular sentiment, treating inmates harshly and with strict discipline, with disrespect, with make-work (moving holes in the yard from one place to another, with pick and shovel) and punishment didn't work before the 1970s (when prison inmates were essentially slaves of the state, legally) because they reoffended at the same rate as prisoner now do. Separating emotions from management realities is difficult.

The voters want more and more people locked up, so priorities have to be put on the public dollar. If it is cheaper to use inmates' funds to buy a TV set (\$200) than it is to hire another officer (\$30,000+/year), then the decision is an easy one.

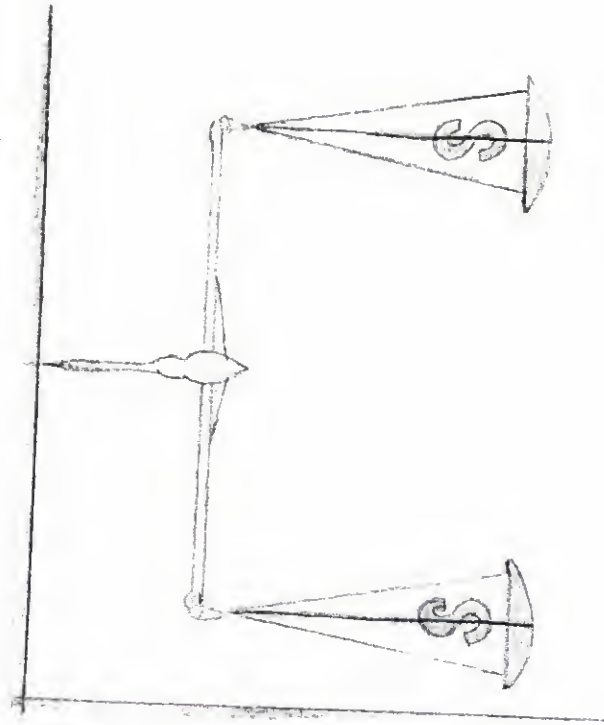
**Taken from the Oregon State Corrections official website.
<http://www.open.org/~hawley/question.htm>

I think the scariest thing about it all is that the one woman who is running the facility is so unconcerned about what happens to the female prisoners (that she supposedly is working so hard to rehabilitate).

If I sound a bit angry, I am. Taxpayers have paid billions of dollars for a facility that should release family, goal-oriented, educated and productive women. In reality, the women here are angry. It's wasted money in the name of Corrections.

Considering the School System is in such a rut, give the money to schools. I say taxpayers shouldn't give another red cent to prisons. Education should not be taught in prison but in a schoolhouse. Prisons misuse billions of dollars. With schools, at least you'll know where your money is going.

- Anonymous



Barklee Bannister

**INTAKE INMATE PROPERTY
AT COFFEE CREEK:
LOST, STOLEN, AND DISCARDED**
by Bartlee Gisbert Bannister

At Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, as male and female inmates are processed through the Intake Dept, and are given the choice to mail out their property to a family member, friend, or their attorney.

Several non-English Speaking inmates have brought it to the attention of other inmates that they were never given that choice: that correction officers working that section of the facility made that choice for them by discarding their property (throwing it in the garbage).

Other inmates processed in through the Intake Dept have reported that the individuals they mailed their property to never received it, especially property of monetary value such as jewelry and credit cards.

Certain inmates with access to viewing Correctional Officials in the Intake section of the facility said they viewed these same Corrections Officials pocketing property, or sometimes boxing it up and mailing it out to a different address.

After a few of the inmates were notified by their outside people that they never received their property, they Kyted (sent a communication form) to the Correctional Officials working the Intake Dept inquiring about it. Inmates then viewed the Correctional Officials ripping up the Kytes and throwing them away.

I encourage any inmates that have been processed through Coffee Creek's Intake Center to keep their Property Slips and check with the people they mailed their property to. I also encourage those inmates with missing property to contact the Oregon Department of Corrections Internal Affairs, Oregon's Attorney General, and their personal attorneys. Have your friends and family make calls too.

Oregon Dept of Corrections Internal Affairs: 2575 Center Street, NE,
Salem, OR 97301-4667 (503) 945-0930, fax: (503) 373-7092

Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers:
Justice Building, Salem, Oregon, 97310 (503) 378-6002

WHY DO INMATES HAVE SO MANY RIGHTS?

So, how do inmates get the rights we keep hearing about? I

interviewed five police officers, four of whom became jail managers and one became the administrator of a state department of corrections. I asked them if before they became a corrections manager if they believed in all the "goodies" that inmates seem to have now. They all answered, "No!" Then I asked them if the inmates in their jails/prisons are granted rights beyond those required by law. All five said, "Yes". These are the reasons they gave:

- 1. It is less expensive to have 100 inmates watching a television set than it is to hire more officers to keep them in line. The inmates pay for the television sets from the commissary profits we charge them.*
- 2. Inmates fight less and are less disruptive if the food we serve is well prepared. The preparation of their food is much less expensive than for public restaurants. If they fight less, we write less reports and pay for less officers' injuries and uniform repair/replacement. We would grow our own food, but it is usually more expensive than buying it, because of the expense of well trained officers to supervise them growing the food.*
- 3. We give inmates liberal access to telephones because they can contact their attorney and others more easily and not bother officers so much. (Plus, the telephone companies pay us very well for the collect-only calls that the inmates make.)*
- 4. We let the inmates have access to law books because it cuts down on attorney visits and the high cost of any court-appointed lawyers. (Some agencies even offer inmates help with lawsuits because the suits are easier [less expensive] to defend if they are properly filed.)*
- 5. We could do away with weight lifting, but busy inmates cause fewer problems; fewer problems means less officers have to be hired. Inmates know how to develop large muscles without weight-piles anyway. We also believe that healthy inmates have fewer medical needs\$.*

Centerfold by Kristen Marshall
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

